

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

THE SATANIC TEMPLE, INC. and
ANN DOE,

Plaintiffs,

V.

TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES COMMISSION and
CECILE YOUNG, in her official
capacity as Executive Commissioner of
the HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES COMMISSION,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 4:21-cv-00387

DEFENDANTS' UNOPPOSED MOTION TO WITHDRAW COUNSEL

Defendants, Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Cecile Young, in her official capacity as Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, (collectively, “Defendants”) file this unopposed motion to withdraw Benjamin S. Walton as counsel for Defendants, respectfully showing the following in support:

This case has been administratively reassigned within the Office of the Attorney General. Ryan G. Kercher is now serving as the attorney-in-charge for Defendants, and Heather Dyer is serving as co-counsel. Accordingly, Defendants request that Benjamin S. Walton be permitted to withdraw as counsel for Defendants

in this matter. Plaintiffs do not oppose this withdrawal, and the withdrawal will not prejudice any party.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Defendants respectfully request this Court to permit Benjamin S. Walton to withdraw as counsel for Defendants in this matter.

Respectfully submitted.

KEN PAXTON

Attorney General of Texas

BRENT WEBSTER

First Assistant Attorney General

GRANT DORFMAN

Deputy First Assistant Attorney General

SHAWN COWLES

Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation

CHRISTOPHER D. HILTON

Chief, General Litigation Division

/s/ Benjamin S. Walton

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Counsel for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

I hereby certify that on September 20, 2022, I conferred via telephone with Matt Kezhaya, counsel for Plaintiffs, regarding the withdrawal of counsel requested in this motion. Mr. Kezhaya advised that Plaintiffs are unopposed.

/s/ Benjamin S. Walton
BENJAMIN S. WALTON
Assistant Attorney General

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on September 20, 2022, a true and correct copy of this document was electronically filed using the Court's CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Benjamin S. Walton
BENJAMIN S. WALTON
Assistant Attorney General